

PVRC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1996

From: [\[email protected\]](#) Mon Aug 5 17:40:19 1996
Date: Mon, 5 Aug 1996 17:36:47 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Dick Wilder (K3DI)"
To: Steve Affens K3SA
Subject: PVRC Newsletter, August 1996

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	KE3Q	RICH BOYD	(301) 464-8014	
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PVRC Charter Members:

W3GRF (SK), W3IKN, W4AAV (SK), W4KFC (SK), W4KFT, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, VP2VI (W0DX).

PacketCluster Contest/DX System (MHz):

K3NA Frederick MD 145.630
W3LPL Glenwood MD 145.590 441.250
KE3Q Bowie MD 145.570 445.375
N3RR Rockville MD 145.510 441.325
N4OHE Mt.Weather VA 145.710 440.925
N4SR Woodbridge VA 145.530 *
WR3L Baltimore MD 145.610 **
K4FJ Mt. Vernon VA 145.770 *

* These nodes are separately operated and funded by the Rappahannock DX Packetcluster Group. The others listed are sponsored by the Potomac Valley DX Spotting Network.

** WR3L is temporally unavailable to users while being used as link to FRC.

PVRC on Internet:

Visit the PVRC Home Page, courtesy of K3SA, at:
<http://www.access.digex.net/~k3sa/pvrc.html>

Dues are by donation.

The mandatory \$10 dues have been discontinued. So please send your donation - hopefully at least \$10 - to Jim Horton, N3KTV, 8527 Calypso Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879-1522. Make checks payable to PVRC. Thank you.

Newsletter Editor:

Dick Wilder, K3DI, 913 Shore Acres Rd, Arnold, MD 21012-1724. The communication ports are: (410) 757-6706, FAX/modem 757-6720, [\[email protected\]](#), and the DXcluster. The deadline is for the September

issue is Monday, August 26.

PVRC Meeting Calendar:

Sat, Aug 17: Fowlfest at W3YOZ in West River, MD.*
Tue, Aug 20: Regular NW meeting, Frederick. *
Mon, Sep 9: First central meeting of the season.
Tue, Sep 17: Regular NW meeting, Frederick. *
Sat, Sep 21: Open house at WR3L in Baltimore.

*See details in article in this issue

FOWLFEET SATURDAY AUGUST 17TH:

It's Fowlfest time; a joint PVRC and NCDXA meeting, hosted by Marty, W3YOZ near Annapolis. Festivities start at noon on Saturday, August 17, with BBQ chicken and drinks. Some folks may bring the optional salad or dessert. Everbody should bring a big appetite! Directions:

From Wilson Bridge: I-95/I-495 to MD Route 4 (PA Ave. South/East); turn off at MD Route 258 (Bristol/Deale); take 258 to MD Route 256; turn left and go to Rodgers Road; turn right, go to gravel road on left, turn left; go to 1062 sign, turn right and go to picnic grounds at the water's edge.

From U.S. Route 50/Beltway: Take Beltway to Route 50; take Route 50 east; after crossing Patuxent River the next turnoff is MD Route 424 (Davidsonville Road); take 424 and continue until it dead ends at MD Route 2; turn right, go 200 feet and turn left on Mill Swamp Road; continue to MD Route 468 (Muddy Creek Road); turn right on 468 and to MD Route 256 (look for Smith's Building Supply); turn right on MD Route 256 and continue to Rodgers Road (first left after the Churchton Post Office); turn left on Rodgers Road, go to gravel road on left; turn left, go to 1062 sign, turn right and go to water's edge.

From I-97: Take I-97 South to MD Route 665 (Allen Blvd.); take 665 to MD Route 2; take Route 2 south to Mill Swamp Road (first left after Route 424 on right); take Mill Swamp Road to MD Route 468 and follow the directions above.

OPEN HOUSE/MEETING AUGUST 3RD AT N3RR, ROCKVILLE by Rich Boyd, KE3Q

The much anticipated N3RR bash started at noon as we navigated Bill's course of yellow flags to outline the drive in across the grass toward parking, with Bill's daughter Brittney leading a bevy of pre-teen YLs frantically waving us in and Bill's son Brian waving us to specific parking spots. Conversation and mini-tours of Bill's antenna farm ensued, followed shortly by the queue for the O'Brien's barbecue, under a big blue and yellow tent in Bill's backyard. Bill had a number of tables set up under the tent, with chairs. Bill was prepared for almost any weather, but the weather cooperated pretty well anyway.

Inside the house we got to see Bill's newly renovated basement and his hamshack with IC-781 and IC-4KL, backed up by an IC-761 transceiver. I enjoyed presetting all three ringrotators (there are just three so far, right?) then pushing all three start buttons and running outside to see

all the antennas turning simultaneously, but in alternate directions. Yes, that was me. I suppose we could get a similar effect if we had the ops at W3LPL all rotate (but not all in the same direction) their yagis at once. Would be fun to capture this on videotape. Maybe we can work up a choreographed routine, "synchronized rotating" and maybe put it to music!

We convened a "real" meeting at 2:30 and voted in six new members. Thanks for joining us, guys! Current members, keep up the recruiting efforts! And let's work up to an activity frenzy for the fall contests!

KF3P had not yet been heard from in a general meeting on his WRTC experience and gave us some interesting info, "It was one big pool party." W3ZZ added some info on his experience as a referee, and K3ZO, who had already spoken on this subject at the KT3Y meeting, added some more.

Bill arranged for Mike Martin, N3RWF, to give his interference hunting/solving presentation, which we commenced at 3. Mike works for PEPCO and solves interference complaints full-time, using his high tech anti-interference truck, handheld yagi and interference-sniffer-on-a-stick. Mike has been very helpful to N3RR, WB3ARZ, K3ZO and many others.

We're very fortunate to have him "walking the beat" in our neighborhood. If you'd like Mike to speak to your local club, I think he's willing. He is: Michael Martin, Interference Investigator, Speaker Bureau, CR-ES Volunteer, Substation Electronics, 8300 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 301-967-5230 Pager 1362. And it does say PEPCO in larger letters in the middle of the card. The question was raised whether he's an actual employee or freelance. I think he's an actual employee but these cards appear (to me) to have been made up to pass out when he goes out to speak to groups like ours.

Futures dates to remember: 8/17, the Fowlfest at W3YOZ, Churchton, MD (south of Annapolis) and 9/23, our first ever ((I think) "summer" meeting in September, at WR3L's packetcluster node station and NE PVRC region HQ (I guess it's a front line trip wire outpost) in Essex, MD, east of Baltimore. And, our first fall "regular" meeting, the second Monday of September, Temple Hills (preceded by Topolino's

restaurant nearby), Maryland, with a presentation by WB4NFS and maybe others, on the VP2MFM contest DXpedition that was done by Woodbridge guys, plus ringers W4MYA and W2HPF.

Sign in: W3GG, N3MIL, KE3Q, WF3J, AA3KX, N3JT, KE4PSV, WD3Q, AA4EL, N3RQV, KC3RN, N3KTV, W2EOS, ND3A, K3DI, N3FZB, WR3Z, W3LPL, K4MJO, NE3H, KI6ZH, W4VC, K4VV, N3RR, WB3AVN, N3AM, WB3ARZ, K6IR, KA3TGY, W4FQT, W3UJ, AE3C, KW4T, K3TZV, K3TLX, WR3Z, N3UMA, W3OTC, N3RWF, W3IUU, W3ZZ, N3HSA, K3ZO, W6AXX, WR3E, N3II, AA3LE, W3GNQ, KT4W, AA3NM, WA3WJD, and Tom Gately (non-ham PE, neighbor of W6AXX who did tower plans for KF3P, N3RR, and KO7V).

The meeting broke up around 5:00 with additional mini-tours of the grounding panel by N3RR, walks out to the base of the tower with

description by N3RR, and we drove out, staying between the red flags. Congratulations, N3RR, on your station and on putting together a fine affair!

PVRC Northwest Regional Meeting Minutes July 16, 1996
by Tyler Stewart, KF3P

The meeting was called to order at 8PM at Legends Restaurant in Frederick. In attendance were members: KF3P, K3SME, N3KKM, K3ZNV, K3IXD, W6AXX, N3RR, ND3A, N5OKR, AA3HM, and the ghost of AA6DC (ask someone who was there late).

N3RR reminded us of his open house on August 3rd... [details deleted. See above minutes. ed] AA3HM reminded us that NAQP CW is August 3rd as well....oh well!

K3IXD sent a substantial check to N3KTV (PVRC Treasurer), for profits from the most recent PVRC paraphernalia sales.

KF3P drove straight from National Airport to preside over the meeting, after participating in WRTC with Bob, KR2J of FRC as W6V. Tyler related a few details of this first-class event, synopsizing by saying that it was an incredible experience and a whole lot of fun! He passed around a copy of a 2/3 page article that appeared in the local paper for Solano County, CA with an interview and big color photos of Bob and himself, manning W6V at the home of host Les Valdez, WB6YRN. Of course, the reporter and photographer showed up at 11 AM during the contest, providing a convenient and justified excuse for their team not winning the competition! The organizers are hoping that the next WRTC will be run in the year 2000. Possible locations loosely bantered around were Japan and Aruba/Bonaire. A reminder was made that NAQP Phone is August 18th and 19th. Meeting adjourned.

MINUTES OF MEETING AT KT3Y ON JULY 20th by Rich Boyd, KE3Q

We met at KT3Y's Saturday, 7/20/96 starting at noon. Present were: KE3Q, N3MIL, KA4RRU, W3MR, N3QYA, KT3Y, K1HTV, WF3J, W3TMZ, ND3A, NJ4F, K7SV, K3SW, K4VV, KE3TT, AA3KX, K3ZO, W6AXX, KW4T, WR3E, WB3AVN, NR3O, K3IXD, KB3AUG, KU3M, AA6DC, and N4RV.

We got the antenna tour at KT3Y, much like last year, but with some new antennas added. There were 5-el wire yagis for EU and JA for 20 and 15, stacked 20M dipoles, phased 80M dipoles, the 3-el 40M EU wire yagi in "the lower 40" (that's what KE3TT called it), beverages, and others too numerous to remember.

Inside, Phil demo-ed his IC-765 and IC-775, antenna switching, code reader innovation, and Ameritron AL-1200 and AL-82. He also showed us the design and construction technique of his antenna tuners in mailboxes and discussed the merits of the different designs.

When we settled in around the dining room table upstairs, Phil showed us his wire antenna center insulator construction techniques. Not one has

failed yet, he says. And, using his high-tech satellite TV system in the living room he demo-ed a 1-db, 3-db, and 10-db difference in signal strength. Very interesting. As Phil said, "And when I think of how many hours I spent to try to get half a db!"

K3ZO and KT3Y each, in turn, gave their observations from WRTC, where both were judges, with many questions and comments from the PVRCers.

We heard from N3QYA about his station and operating activities, and voted him into membership. Andy is the son of long-time PVRCer W3MR, who was also in attendance. Andy's 16 and lives in Davidsonville, Maryland.

Also voted in were Pennsylvania region co-chairmen (K3MQH is passing the torch) NE3H and K3TZV. Congratulations! We hope for many more new PA PVRC members.

We also welcomed first-time PVRC meeting attender NR30, (number thirty), known to many of us from the 147.0 repeater, and FRCer K3SW.

We had a great time, didn't run out of cola or beer or chips, the weather was MUCH better than last year, and the company was just as good!

Anyone who was there, did I forget to mention anything in particular that I should have? If so, packet me and I'll put it in an addendum.

RESULTS - 1996 PVRC REUNION by Dick Wilder, K3DI

The following are the results of the PVRC Reunion-on-the-air held 3-5 June 1996. Some scores of the top five were adjusted by the judges to remove N6ZO/MM as a multiplier; MM is not a state, DC, Province, or DXCC country. These scores, with soapbox from far flung PVRC'ers, will be in the annual edition (April or May 1997) just before the '97 reunion. Notice the margin with which Henry edged out Buddy -- 1/24 of a QSO! Many thanks to all that participated.

Call	#	QSO	Mult	Score
W3UJ	1	191	23	8786
W4YE	2	183	24	8784
N4RP	3	122	22	5368
K3ZO	4	116	23	5336
KE3Q	5	136	19	5168
K3DI		138	18	4968
K4PQL		109	22	4796
KF3P		119	17	4046
K4VT		99	20	3960
K3AV		98	20	3920
WB3AVN		85	22	3740
WR3E		105	17	3570
W3TMZ		82	19	3116
AA3HM		91	17	3094
W3GN/M		57	26	2964
K8OQL		73	20	2920
K1HTV		82	16	2624

W7YS	81	16	2592
K4RZ	75	17	2550
W3CPB	63	19	2394
KT5X	61	16	1952
N3II	60	16	1920
N3AM	62	15	1860
DK5AD	62	12	1488
W4HM	39	17	1326
W2RS	40	15	1200
W3HVQ	50	11	1100
N4KW	41	10	820
N5OKR	44	8	704
W5KL	34	10	680
NH6T	36	9	648
W0SS	29	11	638
G0WJF(K6ZH)	27	10	540
W6MVW	12	7	336
K4CAX	15	9	279
W9LT	19	7	266
KA3TGY	12	6	144
K6SG	26	unknown	52
K3IXD	7	1	14
W3JPT/7	2	2	8

IARU HF CHAMPIONSHIP AT W1AW/3 by Bernie McClenny, WR3E

This was a joint effort by members of the Potomac Valley Radio Club and the Frankford Radio Club on 13th and 14th of July. All transmitters, antennas, and operators were located at W3LPL using the call of W1AW/3 and entering the contest as the ARRL Headquarters Station. QSL's will be automatically sent to every station from ARRL Headquarters. The score was:

BAND	QSO	Q-PTS	ZONE	HQ	STNS
160	333	433	8		3
80	671	1145	23		7
40	1627	3839	33		14
20	2619	7473	49		21
15	1628	5062	33		16
10	1139	3195	20		16

	8017	21147	166	77	Final score: 5,139,207

The operators were: AA3NM, K3DI, K3NA, K3RA, KA2AEV, KJ4VG, N3ADL, N3QYA, N5OKR, ND3A, ND3F, W3LPL, W3MR, WA3WJD, WB4NFS, WM2H, WN3K, WR3E, and WR3Z.

My original intentions were to video this event and stay out of the way. I was doing fine until Doug, N3ADL asked me if I wanted to sit down on 20 meters for a while. I thought about it for about 2 seconds and said sure. That was the best hour I have ever had at Franks! Here are the comments by bands.

10 Meters: This was the big surprise band for the weekend. We worked about 400 Europeans. We worked three in the first couple of hours (JX7DFA was one of them). We had a about 270 along with a lot of USA between 1930z and 0145z. And then the biggest surprise was from 0700Z on until the end of the contest we worked about 130 more. There was no flutter at all, and all signals peaked on their true headings. We knew Bertha was over the path, and it may have set up enough wind shear to account for the polar path opening with Es conditions on 10 and 15 meters. One more surprise was JA7OWD at 0525Z directly over the pole. Our best hour on 10 meters was 2100-2200z with 122 qsos. We only worked 4 South Americans, 0 Caribbeans, 1 African, 3 Oceania.

15 Meters: Nice run of Europeans from 0613z to the end. Worked JA1XRP at 0531Z, 5Z4BZ at 0614z, VS6BG at 1136z along with other JA's. Best hour on 15 meters was 1800-1900z with 151 qsos.

20 Meters: This is where the bulk of our QSO's were made. We had 13 hours at rates over 100. Biggest hours were 13z with 189, 12z with 171, and 16z with 164. We should have spent more time looking for Europeans on 20 meters SSB.

40 Meters: Our best hours on 40 meters were between the hours of 0100z and 0500z. All four hours the rate was over 100 per hour. It was nice to point the top antenna to the west coast and have the bottom fixed on Europe. Noise from the storm was a factor but not nearly as much as it was on 80 and 160 meters.

80 Meters: Conditions were definitely hurt by the extreme noise generated by the thunder storms from hurricane Bertha. Many passes were made to 40 and 160. Lots of Canadian activity. Very little long DX worked or heard. Very little South American activity on the band considering it is winter down there. Our best hour was 0500z with 69 QSO's.

160 Meters: Same as 80 meters, very noisy and lots of passing from other bands. Our best hour was 0000z with 38 QSO's. We only worked 4 Europeans on this band and 3 of them were IARU HQ stations, So we only worked zone 27! We spent about 2 hours trying to work some ZL but never did get his call. Sorry whoever that was, it was noisy.

IARU HQ Stations: We had 77 QSO's with the IARU headquarters stations working OM6HQ and HG96HQ six times and LX0RL once. We worked (sorted by number of Q's): OM6HQ/SARA, HG96HQ/MARSZ, ON4UBA/UBA, YU0HQ/SRJ, YP0A/FRR, S50HQ/ZRS, DA0HQ/DARC, PI4AA/VERON, GB5HQ/RSGB, OL9HQ/CRC, LY0HQ/LRMD, SK0HQ/SKA, R3HQ/SRR, L75AA/RCA, SV1SV/RAAG, ES4MM/ITN, ER7A/ARM, EM5HQ/UARL, OI1X/SRAL, Z30M/RSM, and LX0RL/RL. It hurts missing all those HQ stations on 40, 80, and 160 meters. I hope RAC (Canada) makes a better effort next year, we missed VY1RAC completely. I heard someone work him but I could not hear him. We missed 8J3XHQ/JARL and EI0RTS/IRTS, both were spotted on our packet cluster. Where were the following IARU HQ stations: SP0HQ/SN9C/SQ0DXC, LZ7A, ZA1A, IY2ARI/IR2MQP, 4V100RC, HB9A, 4U1ITU, 9V1ARU, T70A, P20A, FF1REF/TM5M, TU2CI, LA7HQ/LG5LG, OE1XHQ, CT1REP, HK3LR? Surely other IARU countries can get special HQ callsigns,

especially in North America.

WRTC Stations: This event added 190 QSOs to our log. We worked each of the 54 stations at least once. Unfortunately, we were unable to really chase these guys and help them out without seriously hurting our score. At one point a good number of WRTC stations were on 10 meters CW, and since our time was limited on CW we concentrated on trying to call WRTC stations especially. Sometimes this had the bad effect of reversing the pileup from the WRTC station to calling W1AW/3 which was bad. We had to send the exchange to one WRTC station four times for all the stateside callers suddenly calling W1AW. But we immediately left those frequencies after working the WRTC stations. On 10 meters the WRTC stations seemed to all have very equal signals. Also most of the WRTC stations on 40 meters were equal, 1 or 2 were down from the rest.

I sure would like to hear how the other IARU HQ stations did, especially HG96HQ who seems to have a lock on this contest. If you have any information please send it to me.

Editors WRTC note:

Fred Laun, K3ZO wrote an excellent article about the WRTC but it was too long to include here. For a paper copy of "WRTC: A JUDGE'S COMMENTS" send a #10 SASE with 32c postage to K3DI. Address on page 1.

I'M MOVING TO GEORGIA by Ralph Bates, K1ZZI.

Effective August 15th, I will be relocating to the Atlanta area: 1070 Cherokee Trail, Woodstock, GA 30188 770-592-3657. "I've "B"een "M"oved. I'm excited about my new QTH with two acres. I look forward to getting a new tower up with room for lots of wires and "stuff!" After five years of QRT, I'm restless and can't wait to meet y'all on the air again.

QTH of W4YE FOR SALE.

Centreville, VA., 3 br, 2 bath, full basement, rambler with 2 car garage. 1.7 acres on a quiet dead end street convenient to US 29, 28, and I-66. Have lived there 21 years and it is time to leave the area. With the house goes a basement ham shack with 230V and operating desk. Towers and antennas stay: 48' Rohn with TA-33 and 8 el 2m yagi. AB-105 at 101' with 4 el 20m yagi and 2 el 40m yagi. Dipoles for 80 and 160. Price \$175,000. Contact Buddy, W4YE at (703) 830-3195.

EVOLUTION OF 8P9Z by Steve Jarrett, K4FJ

In 1987, a group of testers consisting of K3KG, K3ZR, K4FJ, N4TX and W4NL organized a CQWWSSB expedition to Barbados to try their hand at operating from the other end. We had developed our interest by operating from the K3KG (GA, at that time) and W4NL (MD and, later, SC) and we were anxious for something new. N4TX did most of the coordination enabling us to rent a cottage on a sugar cane plantation called Welchtown in the northern part of Barbados. The plantation manager, 8P6PW, had helped set up a rental unit with a limited amateur radio capability. Armed with

equipment and some antennas, we descended upon the place in late October 1987 and found the place, although a bit primitive, perfect for our first shot at contesting from the dx side. Thanks to 8P6PW, we augmented our M/S effort by including his own station in the loop, and, in retrospect, it is probably the very reason we finished high in the standings. During the contest, using my assigned 8P9HR call, we found that rain wiped out the little TH-3 but the antenna recovered after the shower was over. A few months later, while replacing that antenna, we found that the trap holes were positioned upwards- -in fact, the antenna was upside down! The bottom line was that we enjoyed ourselves, helped the beer and rum production, and had gotten our feet wet.

The following February, K3KG, K3ZR and myself returned for a shot at ARRLDX Phone. We had arranged for use of a special call, 8P9X, to ease the vocal chords. In the mean time, we had sent down a 2el shorty forty which had been erected by VE3LGC. We also sent down a TH-5DX which quickly replaced the little TH-3 and the station began to come alive. It was no longer necessary to use 8P6PW's station---we had a good station now that performed well. We nearly won that contest, but a younger group (only two ops) at VP2M beat us. Something to be said for age.

The view from Welchtown was breath taking, a view of the Caribbean and the Atlantic from a hill top location. In the years to follow we gradually improved the station with better equipment which would reside there, and we raised the little tower by 20 feet. The 8P9X scores improved. We even won the ARRL Phone M/S in 91 and collected a bunch of other awards over the years thanks to donors such as K3NA. Our only contest entries as M/S were CQWWSSB and ARRL DX Phone, but I did attempt a Single Op entry in ARRLDXCW in 89. In 92, we switched our contest call to 8P9Z to further ease the vocal trauma and still hold that contest weekend-only call.

The year 1993 was when it seemed that the roof caved. That year was when the plantation was sold, 8P6PW was out of his job, and our little contest cottage was history. We were given 10 days to get our stuff out. 8P6PW took care of the cottage contents and K3ZR and I flew to Barbados and took down the antennas and towers and transported to a place that resembled a tropical jungle. This was to be the new home and place of business for 8P6PW. We had doubts that we would ever return. One year later we went back to survey the situation and were amazed to find the place totally organized, beautiful, and ready for reconstruction of the contest station. In fact, the cottage available to us was about five times larger, better equipped with the essentials of life, and far more room for antennas than we ever could imagine. This is when the rebirth of 8P9Z began and, while it has been expensive and required many non-contest trips, it has been a worthwhile enterprise. K3KG and K4FJ have purchased, erected and installed competition grade antennas and proven the station in recent contests and the rebuild continues. Our score in last Fall's CQWWSSB was very credible for two overaged ops and we have yet to hear a score that beats our ARRLDXSSB M/S effort in Mar 96. K3ZR joined us for that effort and the 3rd op surely made the difference.

Today 8P9Z is a well equipped contest station supported by K3KG, K3ZR, K4FJ, and W4NL. We have a TH-6DX at 60 feet, a 3 el 40M yagi at 90 feet

and wire antennas for 80 and 160. During our own contest operations we have access to 8P6PW's TH-7 at 60 feet. Although the location of the current site is not as impressive as the earlier site, we have yet to see the difference in performance. The current cottage is fully equipped with modern conveniences, except for air conditioning, and has room for up to six people.

In the past we have rented our cottage to K4BAI for his cw contesting, as well as G3VBL and VA3DX (VE3ICR). There have been a number of others. We are currently actively advertising the cottage for a rental and it took only a few days to book it for major contests for several years. The cottage is shown on K3ZR's home page (<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/k3zr>) and I can provide you with additional info if you contact me at [\[email protected\]](#).

K3KG and I are currently looking into other investment ventures for contest cottages in the Caribbean.